

REMARKS

Status of Claims and Amendment

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 15, and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-11 are rejected. Claims 12-16 are objected.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-11 have been amended to remove parentheses, brackets, and braces in response to the rejection under 112, second paragraph.

Claims 12, 15, and 16 have been amended to change the claim dependency to depend from claim 1 in response to the objections to the claims.

No new matter is added.

Claim Of Priority

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledgement of the claim of priority to Japanese Application No. 97838/2003 filed April 1, 2003, and Japanese Application No. 404959/2003 filed December 3, 2003, as well as receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledgement of the Information Disclosure Statements filed September 28, 2005, and January 4, 2006, as well as returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form submitted therewith.

Claim Objections

Claims 12-16 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) because it is asserted that a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. It appears the Office Action has not examined claims 12-16 for this reason.

In response, claims 12, 15, and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the grounds of objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

The Office Action asserts that the claims are unclear because of the inclusion of parentheses, brackets, and braces.

In response, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the parentheses, brackets, and braces.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Tu A. Phan/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Tu A. Phan, Ph.D.
Registration No. 30,951

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 11, 2008